

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-04 IO-11 EUR-12 INR-07 EB-07

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7356

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 2730

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DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: RESIDENT INSPECTION AT REPROCESSING PLANTS

REF: (A) STATE 75220, (B) IAEA VIENNA 1981, (C) 75 IAEA
VIENNA 10641, (D) IAEA VIENNA 1214

1. IN ABSENCE OF DIRGEN EKLUND, I MET WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL
ROMETSCH TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE REFTEL A. EKLUND RETURNS TO
VIENNA APRIL 10 AND I PLAN MEET WITH HIM EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. ROMETSCH RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT. ONE WAS
WHETHER U.S. OBJECTIVE WAS TO ASSURE "CONTINUAL" SAFEGUARDS,
"CONTINUOUS" SAFEGUARDS OR JUST TO ASSURE THAT IAEA
INSPECTORS ARE RESIDING IN THAT PARTICULAR COUNTRY.
BY "CONTINUAL", AGENCY MEANS THAT SAFEGUARDS INSPECTORS
WOULD BE EITHER IN THE PLANT OR NEAR TO THE PLANT AT ALL
TIMES. THEY WOULD HAVE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE PLANT WHEN-
EVER NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES
SUCH AS OBSERVING A PROCESS VESSEL CALIBRATION OR OBTAIN-
ING A PROCESS BATCH SAMPLE. ACCORDING TO ROMETSCH,
IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS WOULD ENTAIL PHYSICAL
PRESENCE IN FACILITY FOR ROUGHLY FOUR OUT OF EACH
48 HOURS.

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3. BY "CONTINUOUS", AGENCY MEANS SAFEGUARDS INSPECTORS ARE PHYSICALLY IN PLANT AT ALL TIMES. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS ROMETSCH SAID HE REQUIRES 4.7 MAN YEARS OF INSPECTION EFFORT FOR 24 HOUR A DAY COVERAGE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AREA OF INSPECTION RESPONSIBILITY.

4. ROMETSCH POINTED OUT THAT AGENCY COULD HAVE EITHER CONTINUAL OR CONTINUOUS INSPECTION WITHOUT HAVING "RESIDENT INSPECTION" (AS AGENCY USES TERM). THIS IS POSSIBLE BY HAVING INSPECTORS COMING AND GOING ON FREQUENT BASIS - E.G., MONTHLY, WITH SOME OVERLAP BUT WITH NONE ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL RESIDENCE IN THE COUNTRY.

5. I STRESSED THAT THRUST OF DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION THAT I WAS CONVEYING WAS THAT WE WANTED THOROUGHLY EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS, AND WERE COUNTING ON THE AGENCY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ITS RIGHTS AND FULLY LIVE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD, WITHOUT MAKING COMPROMISES WHICH WOULD DETRACT FROM SAFEGUARDS EFFECTIVENESS. ROMETSCH SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THIS.

6. MISSION UNDERSTANDS INSPECTOR "FLO-THRU" APPROACH NOTED PARA 4 ABOVE HAS BEEN USED IN SOME CASES AND IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR CASE OF JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANT. JAPANESE PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL AVERSION TO "RESIDENT INSPECTION", I.E., INSPECTOR SETTING UP LONG TERM RESIDENCE IN JAPAN, HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO AGENCY AND WAS EMPHASIZED BY KURIHARA TO MAHY IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL B. KURIHARA SAID LONG TERM RESIDENCE GIVES PROBLEMS TO SOME PEOPLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE BUT THAT A PERMANENT LOCATION, E.G., IN TOKYO, THROUGH WHICH INSPECTORS WOULD PASS (ON POSSIBLY UP TO 3 MONTH VISITS) WOULD BE LESS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

7. AS REPORTED REFTEL C, PARA 5, AGENCY PLANS HAVE TWO OR THREE INSPECTORS ON-SITE (CONTINUAL SAFEGUARDS) FOR PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS DURING REPROCESSING OF SAFE-GUARDED FUEL AT TARAPUR.

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8. AGENCY HAS NOT MADE DECISION ON WHAT LEVEL OF SAFEGUARDS TO APPLY TO PLUTONIUM STORED AFTER RECOVERY AND DURING TIME WHEN NON-SAFEGUARDED FUEL IS BEING PROCESSED AT TARAPUR. THIS IS MORE A WATCHMAN FUNCTION THAN AN INSPECTOR FUNCTION AND AGENCY HAS NOT HIRED STAFF MEMBERS NOR DEPLOYED INSPECTORS FOR SUCH WORK. THIS WAS SUBJECT OF MISSION REQUEST REFTEL D REGARDING PRINCIPLE OF TIMELINESS OF DETECTING AND REPORTING

LARGE DIVERSIONS (MISSION IS STILL AWAITING RESPONSE TO REFTEL D).

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE WHETHER OBJECTIVE OF REFTEL A INCLUDES SEEKING ASSURANCE THAT RESIDENT INSPECTORS WILL COVER SEPARATED PLUTONIUM STORED AT REPROCESSING PLANTS. IF SO WE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER CALLING FOR RESIDENT INSPECTION IN FAST CRITICAL FACILITIES WHICH ALSO CONTAIN HUNDREDS OF KILOGRAMS OF SEPARATED PLUTONIUM (SUCH AS THE EXISTING FAST CRITICAL ASSEMBLY AT TOKAI-MURA IN JAPAN).

10. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON FOREGOING, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE I CALL ON EKLUND IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL A.STONE

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